



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **California State Parks Begins Environmental Review for Upper Truckee River Restoration**

To restore the Truckee River's natural flow and protect the clear waters of Lake Tahoe, California State Parks is considering the relocation or reduction of the Lake Tahoe Golf Course located within the Lake Valley State Recreation Area.

"We are proactively and voluntarily seeking to balance the recreational needs of our visitors with the need to restore the river's ecology," said Hayden Sohm, State Park superintendent of the Sierra District, made up of nine counties on California's eastern border.

The decision to move forward with environmental review process comes after two public meetings and the release of a Notice of Preparation. The Draft Environmental Impact Report, in cooperation with the Lake Tahoe Conservancy, will be developed by environmental consulting firm EDAW under the direction of project manager Cyndie Walck, engineering ecologist with California State Parks.

"We are committed to helping keep Lake Tahoe blue while retaining golf as one aspect of recreation on park property," Sohm said. "With that said, we are studying five proposals."

The alternatives being studied are as follows:

- Restore river and relocate 9 holes, possibly to Washoe Meadows State Park
- Restore the river and reduce the golf area. Golf would take place on a 9-hole course or a smaller, executive course (18 holes).
- Restore the river and remove the golf course
- Stabilize existing river banks with rip rap or other material, keep golf course as is
- No action

Currently, the Upper Truckee River carries cloudy sediment and debris into the clear blue waters of Lake Tahoe. To protect the clarity of the lake and restore the self sustaining ecology of the river, a group of environmental scientists and land planners have been working since 1990 to restore the Upper Truckee River to its natural, pre-development state.

Changing the golf course is a critical piece of the entire Upper Truckee River restoration, spearheaded by California State Parks, the California Tahoe Conservancy, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. The entire restoration has four segments or reaches: the Golf Course Reach, the Marsh Reach, the Airport Reach and the Sunset Stables Reach. California State Parks is addressing the Golf Course Reach.

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A 1½-mile stretch of the Upper Truckee River flows through a portion of the golf course. If the river is restored to its historic, naturally meandering riverbed, several holes of the 18-hole course would be flooded.

The Upper Truckee River is the largest tributary to Lake Tahoe and the largest contributor of sediment and nutrients which deteriorate lake clarity. Over the last 150 years, the river has been increasingly degraded by logging, livestock grazing, and development.

Throughout the process, the public and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to review and provide written and oral comments at public hearings and meetings.

The public will be invited to participate in a forum early next year. The public review of a draft EIR/EIS is estimated to take place in the summer of 2007, once a draft is completed. State Parks hopes to select one of the proposals as the preferred alternative in the summer of 2008.

A photo is available showing the sky-view of sediment moving out of the river mouth and into Lake Tahoe. You can find it on the Marsh Reach Web site at [www.uppertruckeemarsh.com](http://www.uppertruckeemarsh.com). Click "The Project" near the top of the screen and "Purpose and Need" in the left margin. This is a Web site about the Marsh Reach at the mouth of the river, down stream from the Golf Course Reach. It does not contain content about the Golf Reach. It is only provided as a way to view the photo.

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